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SUBJECT: BAGHLAN GETS NEW GOVERNOR

REF: 06 KABUL 5879

11. (U) Dr Mohammed Alam Ishaqzai, who until recently served as Nangarhar Deputy Governor and Director of Finance, has been selected as the new Governor for Baghlan Province. Governor Gul Agha Sherzai of Nangarhar confirmed Ishaqzai's appointment to PRT officials at a meeting at Jalalabad Airfield on Jan 125.

12. (SBU) PC Chairman Muslimyar had reported to the PRT last November that Dr. Ishaq Zai was a leading candidate for the position of Deputy in the Ministry of Interior in Kabul (Reftel). The news of his appointment as governor of Baghlan Province came as a surprise to PRT officials, and will leave both the Deputy Governor and Director of Finance positions in Nangarhar open, as Dr. Ishaq Zai held both positions.

13. (SBU) Comment: Ishaqzai is known for his intellect and honesty, and will be missed in Nangarhar province. However, he is definitely deserving of this appointment, and his good qualities should serve Baghlan province well. There are unconfirmed rumors that Baghlan's previous governor, Sayed Ekramuddin, may move on to a highly ranked position in the Ministry of Interior in Kabul.  
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